

Tri-borough SEND Newsletter

Bromley Healthcare provides Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support to people living in Bromley, Bexley and Greenwich, in partnership with other key professionals and networks.



Welcome to the latest edition of the Tri-borough SEND Newsletter! We aim to publish these to you every 6 to 8 weeks. This edition suggests ways to ensure an inclusive and enjoyable experience for all over a range of upcoming festivities.



Bonfire night is a family occasion that brings joy to people across the UK but for at least 1 in 100 autistic people, fireworks can be anything but fun.

Many parents of children on the autism spectrum tell the National Autistic Society they choose not to celebrate bonfire night because their children find it too distressing. The unexpected nature of displays can cause anxiety and stress, and for those with [sensory](#) issues, fireworks can be very disturbing.

There are ways to make bonfire night a positive experience. With the help of their [Facebook group](#) members, the National Autistic Society have compiled the following list of tips to help you enjoy bonfire night with your child. [Bonfire night \(autism.org.uk\)](#)

TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

How to help your child with their fears this bonfire night.


It's one of the most exciting nights of the year – but Bonfire Night isn't for everyone. We all know that our furry friends prefer to be indoors to avoid the fireworks, but there are plenty of young children who are put off by the loud noises too.


It's a **common fear for children**, along with things like being scared of the dark, certain animals, or the idea of a monster under the bed.


Tiny Happy People spoke to a child psychologist to find out how you can support your little ones when something scares them.

[Bonfire Night: How to help your kids and toddlers if they're scared of fireworks - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

<p>Options Autism</p>	<p>Preparing for bonfire night with neurodivergent young people</p> <p>Bonfire Night, also known as Guy Fawkes Night, is an exciting occasion marked with fireworks, bonfires, and the warmth of community gatherings. However, for neurodivergent young people, the night can present unique challenges. By using the concepts of our Neurodivergent Strategy of Ask, Accept, and Develop, we can make Bonfire Night an inclusive and enjoyable experience for all:</p> <p>Preparing for Bonfire Night with Neurodivergent Young People: Ask, Accept, Develop - Options Autism</p>
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	<p>Neurodiversity and Halloween</p> <p>Dr Dee Khaira, Clinical Psychologist for Witherslack Group, shares knowledge on some of the unknown impacts Halloween can have on neurodivergent children, providing practical strategies on how we can support them in this frightful season: Neurodiversity & Halloween - Witherslack Group</p>
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	<p>A simple guide for making Halloween fun for neurodivergent children</p> <p>Creating a fun and inclusive Halloween experience for neurodivergent children can require some thoughtful planning and consideration, but doesn't have to be difficult. Here's a simple guide to help you make Halloween enjoyable for all!</p> <p>Simple guide to making Halloween fun for neurodivergent children - The Shadow Project (shadow-project.org)</p>
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	<p>Diwali – 1 November 2024 (Hindu holiday)</p> <p>Celebrating Diwali with children who have SEND can be a wonderful experience. See the links below to make the celebration enjoyable and accessible.</p> <p>Sensory activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangoli Patterns: Use textured materials like sand, rice, or flower petals to create rangoli designs. This can be a great tactile activity. • Diya Lamps: Make clay diyas and let the children paint and decorate them. The process of molding and painting can be very engaging. • Fireworks Simulation: Use safe, sensory-friendly alternatives like glow sticks or LED lights to simulate fireworks. <p>Creating a Calm Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet Spaces: Ensure there are quiet areas where children can retreat if they feel overwhelmed and overloaded by the sensory input from the immediate environment. It gives them time and space to calm their sensory systems and take control of their emotions again. • Visual Schedules: A Visual schedule acts like stage directions, providing clear, visual cues that outline the sequence of daily activities. This method enhances understanding, as children can see what's coming next, reducing confusion and making transitions smoother. <p>Twinkl - 15 Engaging Diwali Ideas for Learners with SEND - Twinkl SEN</p>
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[How to keep children safe this Halloween | 12 top tips \(capt.org.uk\)](#)
[Firework safety advice hub | Safe fireworks for families \(capt.org.uk\)](#)



What is Odd Socks Day?

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. Odd Socks Day 2024 is taking place on Tuesday 12 November 2024. It is supported by cBeebies presenter and ABA patron, Andy Day and his band 'Andy and the Odd Socks': [Odd Socks Day \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](#)



What is a Health & Hospital Passport?

A hospital passport tells the hospital about your healthcare, your *learning disability*, how you like to communicate and how to make things easier for you. You can carry your hospital passport and show it to healthcare staff at the hospital. It can help you to get the care you need in an easier to understand way. Hospital passports can get lost in hospital so it's a good idea to have more than one copy: [Health Guides: Hospital Passports, Summary Care Records And Flu Jobs | Mencap](#)



Tri-borough Local Offers

The Local Offer is a document that gives information about the support services available in your local area. This specifically for children, young people and their families with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND).

Bromley: [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Local Offer – London Borough of Bromley](#)

Bexley: [Bexley Local Offer](#)

Royal Borough of Greenwich: [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Local Offer | Greenwich Community Directory](#)

Get to know your local Children and Family Centres

Bromley: [Children and Family Centres \(bromley.gov.uk\)](#)

Bexley [About the Children's Centres | London Borough of Bexley](#)

Royal Borough of Greenwich [Children's centres | Royal Borough of Greenwich](#)

Should you require any further support or information, please contact the Health Visiting Tri-borough SEND Specialists at:

Contact: bromh.tri-boroughsendchampions@nhs.net

Please also follow us on the following social media platforms:



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